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GP 1632A ✓

PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: H. Robert Horvitz et al. Art Unit: 1632
Serial No.: 09/993,420 Examiner: Shin Lin Chen
Filed: November 6, 2001 Customer No.: 21559
Title: IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF A
GENE WHICH PROTECTS CELLS FROM PROGRAMMED
CELL DEATH AND USES THEREFOR

Commissioner for Patents
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REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action that was mailed in connection with the above-captioned patent application on March 12, 2003, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.

AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 28, with the following paragraph.

As used herein, by an "n3377" nucleic acid sequence is meant a nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 3 that has a G to A substitution at position 226 of SEQ ID NO:2 and results in a loss-of-function. For example, this substitution may result in the protein encoded by an "n3377" nucleic acid sequence having a conversion of a glutamic acid to a ~~ysine~~ lysine at position 74 of SEQ ID NO:3.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 11, with the following paragraph.

Figure 2 shows the nucleotide sequence of the genomic region containing the C. elegans ced-9 gene, with selected restriction sites (SEQ ID NO:1).

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13, with the following paragraph.

Figure 3 shows the nucleotide sequence of a particular ced-9 cDNA (SEQ ID NO:2), with selected restriction sites and the predicted translation product (SEQ ID NO:3).